

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A steam cooker, comprising:

a steam generator for generating steam;

a steam temperature-raising device for raising a temperature of steam coming from the steam generator;

a heating chamber provided with a ceiling steam outlet on its ceiling side, in which an object to be cooked is heated by steam supplied from the steam temperature-raising device via the ceiling steam outlet, said steam temperature-raising device including:

a tray-shaped case having a recessed part which has a sidewall provided with a steam supply port through which steam from the steam generator enters the recessed part, the tray-shaped case being placed, with an opening of the recessed part directed downward, on the heating chamber at the ceiling steam outlet; and

a heater placed in the ~~recess~~ recessed part;

wherein a plurality of steam outlets for supplying steam heated by the heater in the recessed part into the heating chamber sideways are provided in both of sidewalls of the recessed part of the tray-shaped case that adjoin the sidewall provided with the steam supply port and on the opposite side of the steam supply port.

2. (Original) The steam cooker according to claim 1, wherein the recessed part of the tray-shaped case has a planar shape that is roughly symmetrical with respect to a center line of steam flow entering through the steam supply port, and the heater is placed in the recessed part of the tray-shaped case such that a planar shape of the heater is roughly symmetrical with respect to said center line.

3. (Original) The steam cooker according to claim 2, wherein a sidewall on the opposite side of the steam supply port of the recessed part of the tray-shaped case is inclined with respect to a plane roughly perpendicular to said center line.

4. (Original) The steam cooker according to claim 1, wherein the recessed part of the tray-shaped case has a planar shape that is a generally pentagonal shape having three sides forming a U-shape and two sides continuous with both ends of the U-shape of the three sides and forming a generally V-shape bent outward, and the steam supply port is provided in a sidewall corresponding to a central one of the three sides forming the U-shape of the recessed part of the tray-shaped case.

5. (Original) The steam cooker according to claim 1, wherein the recessed part of the tray-shaped case has a planar shape having three sides forming a U-shape and an arc-shaped outer periphery that is continuous with both ends of the U-shape of the three sides and curves outward, and the steam supply port is provided in a sidewall corresponding to a central one of the three sides forming the U-shape of the recessed part of the tray-shaped case.

6. (Original) The steam cooker according to claim 1, wherein each of corners of the recessed part of the tray-shaped case has a curved surface so that adjacent sidewalls are smoothly continuous with each other.

7. (New) The steam cooker according to the claim 1, wherein the heater is placed within the recessed part such that the heater is located above the ceiling steam outlet.

8. (New) A steam cooker, comprising:

a steam generator for generating steam;

a steam temperature-raising device for raising a temperature of steam coming from the steam generator;

a heating chamber provided with a ceiling steam outlet on its ceiling side, in which an object to be cooked is heated by steam with a raised temperature supplied from the steam temperature-raising device via the ceiling steam outlet, said steam temperature-raising device including:

a tray-shaped case having a recessed part which has a sidewall provided with a steam supply port through which steam from the steam generator enters the recessed part, the tray-shaped case being placed, with an opening of the recessed part directed downward, on the heating chamber at the ceiling steam outlet to provide the steam with raised temperature to the ceiling steam outlet; and

a heater placed in the recessed part to heat the steam supplied through the steam supply port to raise the temperature thereof;

wherein a plurality of steam outlets for supplying steam heated by the heater in the recessed part into at least one steam passage having at least one outlet in a wall of the heating chamber are provided in both of sidewalls of the recessed part of the tray-shaped case that adjoin the sidewall provided with the steam supply port and on the opposite side of the steam supply port.